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NO. 9 K-STATE @ NO. 5 BAYLOR

the collegian  
**GAMEDAY GUIDE**

**A SHARE  
OF HISTORY**



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN  
Senior wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** cruises down the field for a 30-yard reception during the fourth quarter of the Wildcats' 41-20 loss to the Horned Frogs on Nov. 8 at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.



# Big 12 bowl projections: Wildcats head to Dallas for Cotton Bowl



ADAM SUDERMAN  
THE COLLEGIAN

**Allstate Sugar Bowl:**  
**Alabama vs. TCU**  
**Jan. 1, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Mercedes-Benz**  
**Superdome in**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

Rampant speculation surrounding Baylor and TCU on who's more deserving of the College Football Playoff bid will finally come to a close. A K-State win in Waco, Texas Saturday night closes the discussion and the Horned Frogs will have the opportunity to be the second-straight Big 12 team to knock off Alabama head coach Nick Saban and company in the Sugar Bowl.

A return of B.J. Catalan remains in question for TCU, however, a healthy Trevone Boykin, Aaron Green and Josh Doctson will be more than adequate for the Big 12 co-champions.

**Goodyear Cotton Bowl:**  
**K-State vs. Ole Miss**  
**Jan. 1, 2015, 11:30 a.m.**  
**AT&T Stadium in**  
**Arlington, Texas**

Missed opportunities from K-State's 20-14 loss to Auburn on Sept. 18 will never disappear. However, a trip to AT&T Stadium on New Year's Day is not a bad conclusion either. Ole Miss and head coach Hugh Freeze are without Laquon Treadwell, their best player on offense, but they carry one of the strongest defenses in the nation.

Regardless of the outcome, the 2014-15 senior

class for the Wildcats should be proud of bowl appearances against Arkansas, Oregon, Michigan and the Rebels.

**Valero Alamo Bowl:**  
**Baylor vs. Arizona**  
**Jan. 2, 2015, 5:45 p.m.**  
**Alamodome in**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

After scoring a combined 123 points with Washington at the Alamo Bowl in December 2011, the Bears make their first return to San Antonio since the record-setting game. This matchup puts Art Briles and his high-octane offense against a very similar unit led by Arizona Wildcats' head coach Rich Rodriguez.

The former West Virginia and Michigan head coach is flying high in Tucson after swimming through rough waters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Will they break the scoring record from three years ago? Probably not, but it's bound to be entertaining.

**Russell Athletic Bowl:**  
**Oklahoma vs. Clemson**  
**Dec. 29, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Orlando Citrus Bowl in**  
**Orlando, Florida**

Coming into the 2014-15 season, Oklahoma was deep in conversation for the inaugural College Football Playoff. The talent was there, but key mistakes in losses to TCU and K-State and a blowout against Baylor knocked the Sooners down the Big 12 pecking order. The health of quarterback Trevor Knight is a key question and head coach Bob Stoops is hopeful he can return for the bowl game.

**AdvoCare V100 Texas Bowl:** Texas vs. Texas A&M  
**Dec. 29, 8 p.m.**  
**NRG Stadium in**  
**Houston, Texas**

Will Texas and Texas A&M officials allow this to happen? There are some sour feelings due to the Aggies'



TOMMY THEIS | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State quarterback **Collin Klein** drops back to pass during the 2012 Cotton Bowl Classic in Cowboys Stadium on Jan. 6, 2012. Klein threw for 173 yards and rushed for 42 more, but it was not enough as K-State lost to Arkansas 29-16.

departure for the SEC, but an opportunity to play them without paying for a scheduled matchup in the regular season is one that won't come frequently.

If this game comes to fruition, it'll be easily one of the most anticipated games in the entire bowl schedule.

**AutoZone Liberty Bowl:**  
**West Virginia vs. Arkansas**  
**Dec. 29, 1 p.m.**  
**Liberty Bowl**  
**Memorial Stadium in**  
**Memphis, Tennessee**

What a remarkable turnaround by Arkansas head coach Bret Bielema. His team fell short in an overtime loss

to Texas A&M and lost by one point to Alabama. Back-to-back shutouts against LSU and Ole Miss are the clear highlights to their 6-6 season.

For West Virginia, health of Clint Trickett is one of the biggest questions, but there is still plenty for the Mountaineers to build off of for 2015-16. Transfer quarterback

Skyler Howard has performed admirably in Trickett's absence and has shown he can perform at a high level.

Adam Suderman is a senior in mass communications. Please send comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).



## Third Big 12 championship within Snyder's, his players' grasp

BY TATE STEINLAGE  
THE COLLEGIAN

K-State's pitch to Jake Waters during his sophomore season at Iowa Western Community College was a simple one: come to Manhattan and have a shot at winning the Big 12.

Two years later, that promise has become a reality.

No. 9 K-State (9-2, 7-1), led by their senior signal caller Waters, heads to Waco, Texas Saturday with an opportunity to capture at least a share of the Big 12 title.

"It would be the highest (accomplishment)," Waters said Tuesday at K-State's weekly press conference. "It would be the best thing that I've done. When I came here that is what I wanted to do. I wanted to win a championship. Now we have the opportunity to do it. It's cool; obviously, this is what you play for."

The task in front of them is no small one. The Wildcats face No. 5 Baylor (10-1, 7-1), who is eyeing the conference crown as well, along with a potential College Football Playoff berth.

The Bears enter the contest ranked No. 1 in the country in total offense (581.1 yards) and

points per game (49.8). They are also ranked in the top-20 in passing offense (No. 6) and rushing offense (No. 18).

Senior quarterback Bryce Petty suffered a minor concussion in Baylor's narrow 48-46 win over Texas Tech last weekend, but is expected to play Saturday. He has been phenomenal the last two years for Baylor, throwing for over 7,000 yards and 55 touchdowns in two-dozen games during that span.

Petty's partner, sophomore running back Shock Linwood, has been a standout contributor all season long on the ground. The Texas native has amassed 1,135 yards and 15 touchdowns, leading the charge for one of the nation's most well-balanced teams.

K-State will prepare for the Bears like they would any other team. They will watch film, practice under the lights and artificial noise makers at Bill Snyder Family Stadium and watch film some more. They will say this is their most important game they've played all season.

Still, the Wildcats are well aware of what's at stake, especially the senior class. A win Saturday would not only secure the program's third conference title, it would make them the first senior class at

K-State to capture two conference titles during their tenure.

"That's one of those things that us seniors want to be able to be remembered for here at Kansas State," senior defensive end Ryan Mueller said. "We're trying to leave a legacy."

Even those who are not seniors understand what that means.

"This senior class is near and dear to me," junior cornerback Morgan Burns said. "They are great leaders who have put a lot of time here in this program, guys who truly care about this program. I would love to see them go out with a bang, a win, knowing that they've done something that hasn't happened in this program before. That would be super special."

Heading into this season, a Big 12 championship was one of K-State's top goals and the Wildcats hope to leave with a ring on their fingers. For the seniors, it'd be two in four years.

"This game has a lot of implications," senior linebacker Jonathan Truman said. "Obviously, if we win we get at least a share of the Big 12. If we lose, we don't. There's a lot riding on this game, and we're just excited to prepare for it and execute."

PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior quarterback **Jake Waters** talks with head coach **Bill Snyder** during a timeout in the third quarter of K-State's 41-20 loss to TCU on Nov. 8 at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.

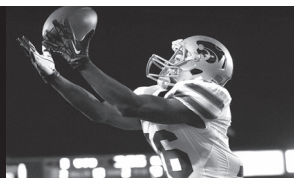
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# Three steps back, two steps over: McCrane scoring at record pace for K-State

By ADAM SUDERMAN  
THE COLLEGIAN

There wasn't much for Texas senior wide receiver Jaxon Shipley to celebrate after falling in a 23-0 shutout to K-State on Oct. 25.

However, across the field stood Wildcats' redshirt-freshman kicker Matthew McCrane, who played alongside Shipley at Brownwood High School in Brownwood, Texas.

Former Brownwood head coach Bob Shipley, Jaxon's father and McCrane's high school coach, said his son took great pride in seeing his former teammate's career come together with three made field goals in the game.

"When Jaxon and I talked after the game, that was the first thing he said," Bob, who is now the head coach at Belton High School (in Belton, Texas), said. "'Dad, did you see Matt? He killed it.' That was fun. Obviously, Jaxon wanted to win the game, but at the same time, he knows what Matt has put into kicking and all the sacrifices he has made. He was really happy for him as well."

McCrane has played like anything but his freshman label in his first stretch as the Wildcats' starting kicker.

He has surpassed former K-State all-American Martin Gramatica for most points in one season as a freshman with 77 overall. Other than Darren Sproles' 104-point sophomore season in 2002, McCrane's mark is the best for any Wildcat in their first two years in the program.

McCrane was labeled as the No. 2 kicker on the season-opening depth chart, but three missed field goals from junior Jack Cantele against Auburn on Sept. 18 opened the door for the Brownwood, Texas native.

"To come into this season and not be the guy, he just continued to be patient and



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Freshman place kicker **Matthew McCrane** winds up to take K-State's extra point after K-State's second touchdown during the second quarter of the Wildcats' 45-13 defeat of the Red Raiders Oct. 4 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

you never know when your number is going to be called," Bob said. "I'm just thankful that he responded. I'm not thankful that it happened the way that it did, but he's really come up big for Kansas State. I know there are a lot of people who are awful proud of him in the state of Texas."

Having played quarterback and wide receiver in high school, the first-year phenom is used to the adversity that often surrounds a kicker.

"I played different positions in high school and I didn't just kick," McCrane said. "I try not to let the pres-

sure get to me and I don't think it does, because I'm used to the pressure situations at other positions. Obviously college is different, but when it came to the West Virginia field goal — especially after missing the two before — I tried to not let the pressure get to me."

With the difficult transition to collegiate kicking, McCrane is thankful for what four-year special teams coach Sean Snyder has done for his development.

"When I first got here, I wasn't hitting the ball very well," McCrane said. "Coach

(Sean) Snyder has helped me tremendously. I've got to give him a lot of credit. He's helped me with ball height and obviously (some) consistency. From short range and long range, he's helped a lot through that."

Having converted on both of his field goals and five extra points attempts, the redshirt freshman was named Big 12 special teams player of the week on Monday following K-State's 51-13 win over Kansas.

"As a freshman, that's big for me," McCrane said. "I'd obviously like to continue to

do that in my career, but I'm grateful to get on the field this young. Not many redshirt kickers get the chance to do that. Getting playing time and getting an award for it is really big for me."

Watching from afar, Bob isn't surprised to see how McCrane has settled into the position. His play at K-State was something he also displayed as a high-school kicker.

"He was a natural at it, but at the same time he worked really, really hard," Bob said. "All year round, he was perfecting his craft and going to camps all over the country."

With Mel Gibson's famous, "Aim small, miss small," line from "The Patriot" in mind, K-State's freshman points leader is ready for the challenges that are presented when he takes the field.

"It was always a dream growing up to play Big 12 football," McCrane said. "Awhile back it was for Texas and it didn't go that way. It's playing Big 12 and Division-I ball, so I'm definitely grateful for that. All I can say is I'm living the dream and if I continue doing my job and stay focused, it'll be good for us."

## Conference championships highlight key games

By EMILIO RIVERA  
THE COLLEGIAN

What a time to be a football fan, especially in the inaugural season of the College Football Playoffs, where the ACC, Big 10, Pac-12 and the SEC Championships all could push teams into or out of the playoffs.

What about the other major conference that isn't listed, the Big 12? With the slogan "One True Champion," the conference could see two conference champions in its first year under the motto. Logical, right?

**I @ TCU**

**Iowa State at No. 4 TCU  
11 a.m., ABC  
(Line: TCU -33.5)**

For the first time since entering the Big 12, the Horned Frogs are competing for a share of the conference championship. To be clear, they can only earn a share of the title with a win, sharing it with the winner of the Baylor and K-State game.

The Horned Frogs head into the game with the best

offensive player in the conference, junior quarterback Trevone Boykin. He accounts for more yards than any other player in the conference and looks to extend that lead against the last-place Cyclones.

Playing in Fort Worth, Texas, Gary Patterson's team looks to solidify their shots at a College Football Playoff berth. Unless there is a tumultuous breakdown against the Cyclones, look for a run-away victory in what looks to be one of the most cut and dry games of the day.

**OSU @ OU**

**Oklahoma State at No. 18 Oklahoma  
2:30 p.m., FOX Sports 1  
(Line: Oklahoma -20)**

The Sooners' season hasn't exactly gone according to plan and this game will be nothing but what it is named for: Bedlam. The Sooners have already lost at home twice this season, and the upset-minded Cowboys look to make it three times.

History looks to be on the side of the Sooners as the Cowboys haven't been able to secure a win in Gay-

lord-Memorial Stadium since 2001. Since that time, Oklahoma State has only been able to beat Oklahoma three times with the last victory coming in 2011.

The Sooners are coming into the game with true freshman Cody Thomas starting under center. They will need him to pass the ball well, but will rely heavily on freshman running back Samaje Perine in order to pull off the win.

**FL @ GT**

**No. 2 Florida State vs. No. 12 Georgia Tech  
7 p.m., ABC  
(Line: Florida State -4.5)**

In the ACC Championship, the defending national champion Seminoles look to seal their way into a shot at another title. While being highly ranked, Florida State has by no means ran away with any game. In their games against ranked opponents, the Seminoles have only won by a combined 21 points, including a six-point overtime victory against Clemson early in the season.

The Yellow Jackets come into their third-straight ranked game, qualifying with

a thrilling six-point overtime win against Georgia in the "Clean, Old-Fashioned Hate" rivalry series.

The Seminoles come into the game with one of the best passing attacks in the country while the Yellow Jackets have one of the best rushing offenses.

**W vs. OSU**

**No. 11 Wisconsin vs. No. 6 Ohio State  
7:17 p.m., FOX  
(Line: Wisconsin -4.5)**

Both the Badgers and Buckeyes come into the game as two of the best all-around teams in the nation, sporting top-notch running games and lethal defenses. This game is set to be one of the best games of the season.

Ohio State needs a victory to have a shot at a spot in the playoffs, but with quarterback J.T. Barrett out, it will have to rely on an inexperienced quarterback.

The Badgers have looked impressive since their loss to Northwestern in week six and feature one of the best running backs in the country in junior Heisman hopeful Melvin Gordon.

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**BRAMLAGE BEATS**



At the Kevin Rudolf party, Jason Derulo performed for Jason Derulo.

Jason Derulo delights screaming audience

Kevin Rudolf warms up crowd, while Derulo's dancing satifies

Austin Eaves

coverage editor



Jason Derulo dances on stage Monday night in Bramlage Coliseum while wearing laser gloves.

Thousands of striking fans flocked to Bramlage Coliseum last night to see Jason Derulo and Kevin Rudolf rock the house. Bramlage was the only place in the city where fans could see the two performers. The event was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd. The event was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd. The event was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd.

Derulo's performance was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd. The event was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd. The event was a success, with the two performers performing to a sold-out crowd.

DERULO | pg. 3

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# Baylor looking to repeat Big 12 title on Saturday

By TIMOTHY EVERSON  
THE COLLEGIAN

On Saturday, No. 5 Baylor will be seeking their second Big 12 football title in school history.

The road for back-to-back conference crowns leads them back to the friendly confines of their brand-new McLane Stadium in Waco, Texas and a top 10 matchup with No. 9 K-State.

Head coach Art Briles is pleased with the work that has been done by his team, but realizes that plenty of work still remains.

"We made history last year," Briles said. "Baylor never won a Big 12 Championship until last year, so making history is good. It's about winning football games now. We've already made history, so we're winning games and trying to create consistency in a program and trying to prove that we belong with the nation's elite in college football. We can win on a consistent basis and it's not easy to do. Our guys need to be commended for getting this far. We haven't done anything yet – we haven't won anything, championship-wise, but we've certainly set ourselves up to do that."

The Bears are 10-1 on the year with that one loss coming to West Virginia on the road.

The Bears attack starts, contrary to perception, on the ground with sophomore running back Shock Linwood who is second in the Big 12 in yards per game with 103.2 and in touchdowns with 15 overall.



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Baylor quarterback **Bryce Petty** and former running back **Lache Seastrunk** race after a high snap on Oct. 12, 2013 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

With the run established, players such as sophomore wide receiver Corey Coleman have provided Baylor with a punch on the outside. He has separated himself from a pack of talented receivers,

several games for the Bears.

"Our running game has been going well, so we have to be able to hit some short routes as well," Coleman said. "Once we hit those, the defense won't play 30 yards

terback.

Senior quarterback Bryce Petty has been one of the best and most consistent in Baylor's recent lineage of quarterbacks.

After last week's 48-46 shootout win over Texas Tech, Petty's health is in question after getting knocked around and leaving the game with a concussion.

Even with those questions, both the quarterback and his coach insist that Petty is fine and will be suited up ready to play on senior day.

"I do (expect to have Petty on Saturday)," Briles said. "He was here yesterday. He was feeling pretty good. He actually felt pretty good at the end of the game the other day. Of course he took a hard shot, a clean shot."

One would be remiss while discussing Baylor without talking about the Bears defense.

The Bears went from having

one of the worst defenses in college football to having the best rushing defense in the Big 12 and the third best total defense this season.

They've also been strong in forcing turnovers with sophomores cornerback Xavien Howard and safety Orion Stewart both in the top 10 in the Big 12 for interceptions per game. Senior defensive end Shawn Oakman in the top 10 in the Big 12 for both fumbles forced and fumbles recovered.

The Wildcats will plunge headlong into the full arsenal of what Baylor has to offer in what will be the second AP top-10 matchup that Baylor has been a part of in 50 years.

"I think it says what our team did last year and what our team is doing this year," Briles said. "We've got to finish what we started and fortunately we're at that point. All of our hopes and aspirations are still alive."

**"Baylor never won a Big 12 Championship until last year so making history is good, but it's about winning football games now."**

ART BRILES  
HEAD COACH, BAYLOR

both young and old, and tops the Big 12 in receiving yards with 116 yards over eight games.

Coleman's longest touchdown, 72 yards, is representative of Baylor's love of the deep ball – a factor that has been missing in the past

back like they have been playing. After we hit those short routes and they come up, we can get them long."

Coleman and the rest of Baylor's stable of future NFL receivers can only be as good as their quar-

ahead of the Bears is essentially saying that head-to-head matchups do not matter.

Clearly, TCU has a better loss than Baylor, but the Bears' won their only game against top-10 competition.

The only thing that Baylor has not done this season is beat West Virginia. That was the loss that gives supporters of the Horned Frogs a point. The Bears have done everything else, including complete domination of Oklahoma. They have won eight of their 11 games this season by 21 points or more. While they had a close game against a bad Texas Tech team, TCU had the same thing happen in

Lawrence against Kansas.

The committee is placing too much emphasis on when each team played against their best opponents and not considering the entire body of work.

Baylor is a great team and they have statistically the best offense in the country. If they do not receive an invitation to the College Football Playoff, it will be a mistake by the committee.

There is the slight possibility that Ohio State could keep either of the Big 12 teams out of the playoff. That is a more ridiculous notion than TCU holding its lead in the rankings on Baylor. The

Buckeyes are 11-1 this season, but their loss is to a team that finished 6-6 in Virginia Tech. Their wins are in the Big Ten, which is arguably the worst power-five conference in the country.

The four playoff teams should be Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Baylor. Alabama and Oregon have made their cases clear that they deserve to be in. Florida State has looked very shaky in a lot of different games this season, but it's impossible to argue with a 28-game winning streak.

With the Ducks at No. 2 and Bears or Horned Frogs at No. 3, it sets up a very

interesting battle of explosive offenses. With Alabama at No. 1 and Florida State at No. 4, the semifinal battle will be played within driving distance of both schools.

Those games give the potential of a matchup between a powerhouse offense and dominating defense in the championship game. College football fans will want to buckle their seat belts because the first playoff ever is already shaping up to be an all-time great.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in fishing, biology and wildlife conservation. Please send all comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).



AUSTIN EARL  
THE COLLEGIAN

The inaugural College Football Playoff selection is less than a week away and the Big 12 has a slim chance at getting two teams into the playoff – but it is much more likely that they only get one.

The College Football Playoff committee believes TCU should be ranked higher than Baylor and that assessment of the teams is illogical. The Bears should be the team that receives the bid to play in semifinals.

There are certainly points to be made for TCU. Its only loss is by three points on the road against Baylor and they beat K-State by 21 points. With the eye test alone, TCU looks like an elite team.

The Horned Frogs are a very solid team, but they lost to the team that they are trying to keep out of the playoff. All of their attributes cannot overcome that fact. Keeping them

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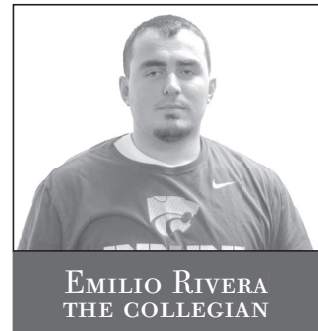
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# Big 12 offensive power rankings: Perine, Lockett move into top 5



## No. 1: TCU QB Trevone Boykin (Last ranking: 1)

At the helm of one of the most potent offenses in the country, Trevone Boykin has proven that he has what it take to beat any defense he comes up against. The junior leads the conference in total yards per game, while racking up more passing yards per game than any active quarterback in the conference.

Boykin is a dangerous threat on the ground as well, racking up almost 600 yards and eight touchdowns. With his speed and ability to get up field, the junior adds another weapon to his team and another person for the defense to be accountable for. While a long-shot to win, Boykin still might earn a trip to New York as a Heisman finalist.

## No. 2: Baylor QB Bryce Petty (Last ranking: 2)

The senior gun-slinger may



GEORGE WALKER | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** reacts after catching a pass during the game against Oklahoma State on Nov. 1 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

just be the toughest player in the Big 12. After fracturing a few transverse vertebrae earlier this season, Bryce Petty is looking to come back against the Wildcats after suffering a concussion last weekend.

Petty is the most efficient quarterback in the conference. In his nine games, Petty has accumulated a 151.7 passing efficiency rating. Simply put, he rarely makes mistakes. Petty will need to stay efficient against the Wildcats in order to keep their name in contention for the College Football Playoff.

## No. 3: K-State QB Jake Waters (Last ranking: 4)

The Wildcats senior leader may have just had the best performance of the season against in-state rival Kansas. Jake Waters managed to rack up four touchdowns through the air while also adding a touchdown on the ground.

When a quarterback gets pulled after three quarters of action it means either they did really good or just plain awful. Against the Jayhawks last Saturday, he piled on

the points for the Wildcats to earn his backup some playing time.

Waters is one of the most difficult quarterbacks to try to contain because of his ability to run with the ball and his speed around the edge in read options.

## No. 4: Oklahoma RB Samaje Perine (Last ranking: unranked)

Undoubtedly the best running back this season in the Big 12, Samaje Perine might be the player with the biggest upside. It's pretty easy to see that the Sooners found a diamond in the rough in Pflugerville, Texas.

Sadly for his team, the true-freshman might be the only offensive player that lived up to the Sooners' standards. Perine is the leading rusher in the conference, racking up 1,428 yards this season. The freshman has reached triple digits four times this season, including an NCAA single-game record 427 yards against the Jayhawks. He also leads the conference in touchdowns, scoring in all but three games this season – totaling 19 touchdowns.

## No. 5: K-State WR Tyler Lockett (Last ranking: not ranked)

Tyler Lockett will go down as one of the best (if not the best) wide receivers in Wildcat history. He put on a show against the struggling Jayhawks in his last game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The senior broke his father Kevin's records (1993-96) for career receptions and touchdowns against the Jayhawks while racking up nine receptions for 119 yards and two touchdowns.

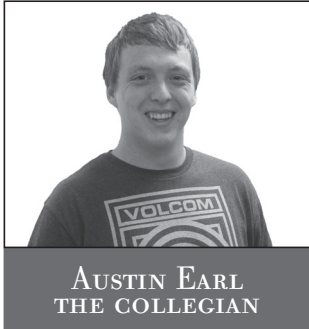
This season Lockett is averaging 107.4 yards per game, which is second best in the conference. While most No. 1 wide receivers in the conference have struggled near the end of the season, Lockett has managed to stay consistent since the mid-point. If the Wildcats have any hope of pulling the upset at Baylor this weekend, Lockett will need to continue to excel.

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PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

TCU linebacker **Paul Dawson** (47) and safety **Chris Hackett** celebrate following Dawson's pending fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter of the Wildcats' 41-20 loss to the Horned Frogs on Nov. 8 at Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.



## No. 1: TCU LB Paul Dawson (Last ranking: 1)

Dawson was incredible

in his final true road game at Texas. His disruptive play produced 10 tackles, two of them for loss, a quarterback hurry and an interception. The team around him was good as well. The Longhorns only managed 90 rushing yards and 10 points in the game.

Dawson is first in the Big 12 in fumble recoveries, second in tackles for loss and tackles and oddly enough, third in interceptions. His all-around play has led the Horned Frogs to tremendous success.

TCU has one last hurdle, albeit a small one, before their

# Big 12 defensive power rankings: Oakman knocks Heeney down to third

possible College Football Playoff appearance. They will host Iowa State for senior day, and Dawson has a chance dominate. The Cyclones' offense is less-than-stellar, which means Dawson could put up huge numbers.

## No. 2: Baylor DE Shawn Oakman (Last ranking: 3)

Kneeing another player in the face didn't stop Oakman from moving up in the power rankings this week. The big man had another nice game, racking up five tackles, three of them for loss, a sack and two pass break ups.

Oakman still ranks first in the conference in tackles for loss and second in sacks. Without him, Baylor very well could be looking at more than just one loss on their resume.

The Bears' last challenge will be the second-toughest they have faced: K-State. The Wildcats' offense moves the ball well through the air, which is where Baylor has shown its biggest weakness. Oakman must get to the quarterback for his team to be successful on Saturday.

## No. 3: Kansas LB Ben Heeney (Last ranking: 2)

Unfortunately for Heeney, his career ended on a down performance. He had just six tackles and had one tackle for loss. He has a good chance of having a NFL career due to a fantastic career for the Jayhawks. He finished on top of the conference in tackles per game. He also was eighth in tackles for loss this season.

## No. 4: Oklahoma State LB Emmanuel Ogbah (Last ranking: 4)

Ogbah and the Cowboys

are coming off of a bye week, but he is still ranked highly in the Big 12 in multiple categories. He is tied for the conference lead in sacks and is third in tackles for loss.

Oklahoma State has one final game and they have the opportunity to become bowl eligible against their in-state rival. The Sooners' biggest threat is on the ground, so Ogbah will have to dip into the other side of his skill set to help his team win this contest.

## No. 5: K-State LB Jonathan Truman (Last ranking: 5)

Truman and his cohorts stifled the Jayhawks on the ground in their last game. He accumulated only six tackles, but the group that he leads allowed just 58 yards on the ground. They did well defending their rival through the air as well, allowing Michael Cummings to throw for just 139 yards.

Truman's continued production has him ranked third in the conference in tackles. K-State allows both the fewest yards and points per game among Big 12 teams.

K-State has a daunting task ahead of them in their final game of the regular season. Baylor scores 49.8 points per game, which is most in the nation. The Bears are better in Waco, Texas then they are on the road, making the feat even more difficult for the Wildcats. Truman will have to fly all over the field and play his best game of the season to slow down their dangerous opponent.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in fishing, biology and wildlife conservation. Please send all comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).

# By the numbers

By Austin Earl  
THE COLLEGIAN

# 49.8

## Points per game scored by Baylor

The Bears' 49.8 points per game are the most in the nation. Their explosive offense has only been held under 30 points twice this season. The Wildcats allow the second-fewest points per game in the conference and have allowed more than 30 points just once this season.

# 108.1

## Rushing yards allowed per game by Baylor

Baylor's run defense is statistically the best in the conference; they allow only 3.0 yards per carry. K-State's biggest deficiency is its lack of ability to run the ball. They earn 146.5 yards per game on the ground, which is seventh in the conference.

# 32

## Sacks by Baylor this season

Led by the very disruptive Shawn Oakman, the Bears' pass rush has the second most sacks this season in the conference. The Wildcats have allowed 19 sacks this season – the fourth most in the conference.

# 75.8

## Baylor's fourth-down conversion percentage

When Baylor is stopped on third down, it doesn't necessarily mean the drive is over. The Bears have converted on 25 of their 33 fourth-down conversion attempts this season. The conversion rate is the best in the conference. K-State has allowed five fourth-down conversions this season.

# 240.9

## Baylor's per-game rushing average

They average the second-most yards on the ground in the conference. K-State's run defense allows 120.2 rushing yards per contest

# 341

## Yards allowed by K-State each game

The Wildcats have been stout on defense this season. They allow the second-fewest passing yards and the fourth-fewest rushing yards in the conference. Those combined for the fewest in the conference. Baylor's offense gains the most yards per game in the Big 12.

# 19.8

## Yards per punt return by K-State's Tyler Lockett

The Wildcats normally are able to gain an advantage in field position because of their return game. The team is 15th in the nation in yards per kickoff return and first in the nation in yards per punt return. The senior Tyler Lockett is first in the country in yards per punt return, while junior Morgan Burns is second in the Big 12 in yards per kickoff return.

# 64.9

## Jake Waters' completion percentage

While Baylor passes for more yards per game than K-State, the Wildcats are the most efficient team in the conference. Senior Jake Waters' completion percentage is the second best in the conference, and he is tied for the fewest interceptions. Baylor allows 256.4 yards per game through the air.

# 40.2

## Penalty yards per game committed by K-State

The Wildcats 48 penalties for 442 yards are both the fewest in the conference. Baylor is the second-most undisciplined team in the conference, with 109 penalties for 974 yards this season.

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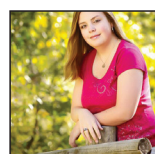
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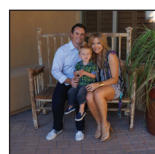
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